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Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Juraj **Priputen** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2001, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee held a substantive debate on the item jointly with items 27 and 109 at its 3rd to 7th meetings, from 8 to 11 October 2001, and took up proposals relating to the item at its 11th, 15th, 19th, 21st and 29th meetings, on 16, 18, 23 and 24 October and 1 November. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/56/SR.3-7, 11, 15, 19, 21 and 29).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 2001 (A/56/3);[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on cooperatives in social development (A/56/73-E/2001/68 and Add.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (A/56/169 and Corr.1);

[1] To be issued in *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/56/3/Rev.1).

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(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/56/180);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on support for volunteering (A/56/288);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General (A/56/57-E/2001/5) transmitting the report on the follow-up to the International Year of the Family (E/CN.5/2001/4);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the draft proposal and plan for a United Nations literacy decade (A/56/114-E/2001/93 and Add.1);

(h) Letter dated 4 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting documents adopted by the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, held at Dakar from 6 to 10 August 2001 (A/C.3/56/2);

(i) Extract from the report on the World Social Situation, 2001 (E/2001/104).

4. At the 3rd meeting, on 8 October, the Director for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/56/SR.3).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.2 and amendments contained in document A/C.3/56/L.7

5. By its resolution 2001/6 of 24 July 2001, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family". The draft resolution was reproduced in document A/C.3/56/L.2.

6. At the 11th meeting, on 16 October, the representative of Benin, on behalf of Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, the Niger, Nigeria, the Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, South Africa, the Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, introduced amendments (A/C.3/56/L.7) to draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.2, by which:

(a) After the third preambular paragraph, the following preambular paragraphs would be inserted:

> "*Further recognizing* that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the world conferences of the 1990s continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

"*Noting with concern* the devastating effects of difficult social and economic conditions, armed conflicts, wars, natural disasters and infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria and of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on family life and stability,

"*Emphasizing* that equality between women and men and respect for the human rights of all family members is essential to family well-being and to society at large";

(b) After operative paragraph 2, the following operative paragraph would be inserted:

"*Encourages* the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and resources, to participate in the preparatory process of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and to play an active role in facilitating regional cooperation in this regard";

(c) After operative paragraph 4, the following operative paragraph would be inserted:

"*Requests* the Secretary-General, in order to facilitate contributions by Governments, to include the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities, on an annual basis, among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities";

(d) In operative paragraph 5, after the words "Economic and Social Council", the words "on the preparation for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family at all levels" would be replaced by the words "on the implementation of the present resolution, including a description of the state of preparation for the observance of the International Year of the Family at all levels".

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Benin corrected the second preambular paragraph of the amendments (see para. 6 (a) above) by deleting the word "wars" and the words "and stability".

8. Subsequently, Argentina, Belarus, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guinea, Malawi, Morocco, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone and Suriname joined in sponsoring the amendments.

9. At its 15th meeting, on 18 October, the Committee adopted the amendments contained in document A/C.3/56/L.7, as orally corrected.

10. At same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.2, as amended, without a vote (see para. 24, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.8 and Rev.1

11. At the 11th meeting, on 16 October, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of Mongolia, Morocco, Panama, the Philippines and Thailand, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Cooperatives in social development" (A/C.3/56/L.8), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 47/90 of 16 December 1992, 49/155 of 23 December 1994, 51/58 of 12 December 1996 and 54/123 of 17 December

1999, in which it requested the Secretary-General to seek views from Governments on the draft guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives and to provide, if necessary, a revised version for adoption,

"*Recognizing* that cooperatives, in their various forms, are becoming a major factor of economic and social development by promoting the fullest possible participation in the development process of all people, including women, youth, older persons and people with disabilities,

"*Recognizing also* the important contribution and potential of all forms of cooperatives to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996, and the World Food Summit, held at Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996, including their five-year reviews,

"1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperatives in social development;

"2. *Approves* the revised draft guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives as a set of general principles to be considered by Member States in developing or revising their national policies on cooperatives;

"3. *Invites* Governments to keep under review, as appropriate, the legal, judicial and administrative provisions governing the activities of cooperatives with a view to ensuring a supportive environment for them to be on an equal footing with other forms of enterprise and protecting and advancing the potential of cooperatives to help their members achieve individual goals as well as to contribute to society's broader aspirations;

"4. *Urges* Governments, relevant international organizations and specialized agencies, in collaboration with national and international cooperative organizations, to give due consideration to the role and contribution of cooperatives in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the World Food Summit, and their five-year reviews, by, inter alia:

"(a) Utilizing and developing fully the potential and contribution of cooperatives for the attainment of social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment and the enhancement of social integration;

"(b) Encouraging and facilitating the establishment and development of cooperatives, including taking measures aimed at enabling people living in poverty or belonging to vulnerable groups to engage on a voluntary basis in the creation and development of cooperatives;

"(c) Taking appropriate measures aimed at creating a supportive and enabling environment for the development of cooperatives by, inter alia,

developing an effective partnership between Governments and the cooperative movement;

"5. *Invites* Governments, in collaboration with the cooperative movement, to develop programmes to promote and strengthen professional cooperative management and to create or improve statistical databases on the development of cooperatives and on their contribution to national economies;

"6. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations, specialized agencies and local, national and international cooperative organizations to continue to observe the International Day of Cooperatives annually, on the first Saturday of July, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/90;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations and other international organizations, national, regional and international cooperative organizations, to render support to Member States, as appropriate, in their efforts to create a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives and promote an exchange of experience and best practices, through, inter alia, the organization of conferences, workshops and seminars at the national, subregional and regional levels;

"8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to bring the above-mentioned revised draft guidelines to the attention of all Member States and to prepare, in consultation with Member States and relevant United Nations and other international organizations, a report on the implementation of the present resolution with an emphasis on the role of cooperatives in poverty reduction, and to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session."

12. At its 21st meeting, on 24 October, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Cooperatives in social development" (A/C.3/56/L.8/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.8 and Burkina Faso, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar, Nicaragua, and the Sudan. Subsequently, Guatemala, Haiti, Kenya, Mali, the Niger and Sierra Leone joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

13. At the same meeting the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.8/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 24, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.9

14. At the 11th meeting, on 16 October, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled

Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century" (A/C.3/56/L.9). Subsequently, Armenia, Andorra, Bangladesh, Belize, Bolivia, Burundi, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, the Congo, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, Jamaica, Latvia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, the Republic of Moldova, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, South Africa, the Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

15. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of the Philippines orally corrected operative paragraph 3, by replacing the words "for maintaining" by the words "in monitoring".

16. At its 15th meeting, on 18 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.9, as orally corrected, without a vote (see para. 24, draft resolution III).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.10 and Rev.1

17. At the 11th meeting, on 16 October, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of Bangladesh, Benin, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Israel, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, the Russian Federation, the Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, Turkey and the United States of America, subsequently joined by Burundi, Cameroon, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Guyana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all" (A/C.3/56/L.10), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* that in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child the right of every individual to education is recognized as inalienable,

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 42/104 of 7 December 1987, by which it proclaimed 1990 as International Literacy Year, and 54/122 of 17 December 1999, by which it requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and Member States and with other relevant organizations and bodies, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a proposal for a United Nations literacy decade, with a plan of action and possible time frame for such a decade,

"*Recalling further* the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000 in which Member States resolved to ensure that, by the year 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education, which requires a renewed commitment to promote literacy for all,

"*Recalling also* the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome document of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world',

"*Recalling further* its resolution 55/94 of 4 December 2000, entitled 'United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights',

"*Reaffirming* its resolution 49/184 of 23 December 1994, in which it appealed to all Governments to step up their efforts to eradicate illiteracy and to direct education towards the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

"*Convinced* that literacy is the key to learning to learn and one of the most basic learning needs of children, young people and adults and that a meaningful use of literacy for all represents quality education and lifelong learning for all,

"*Recognizing* that illiteracy is intertwined with poverty and social exclusion, while literacy is intertwined with empowerment, democracy and social development,

"*Welcoming* the Dakar Framework for Action, adopted at the World Education Forum in April 2000, in which commitments were made to achieve a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015 and to improve all aspects of quality education, especially in literacy and essential life skills,

"*Acknowledging* the activities undertaken at national and regional levels for the Education for All 2000 assessment of progress towards achieving the goals of education for all, and stressing further the need to redouble efforts in order to meet the basic needs of people of all age groups, particularly girls and women,

"*Recognizing* that, despite the significant progress in basic education, especially the increase in primary school enrolment coupled with a growing emphasis on the quality of education, major problems, both emerging and continuing, still persist, which require even more forceful and concerted action at the national and international levels so as to achieve the goal of education for all,

"*Deeply concerned* about the persistence of the gender gap in education, which is reflected by the fact that nearly two thirds of the world's adult illiterates are women,

"*Urging* Member States, in close partnership with international organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to promote the right to education for all and to create conditions for all for learning throughout life,

"1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General and of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, entitled 'Draft proposal and plan for a United Nations literacy decade';

"2. *Proclaims* the ten-year period beginning on 1 January 2002 the United Nations Literacy Decade;

"3. *Welcomes* the vision for a United Nations Literacy Decade, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General and of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and invites Governments and the relevant international organizations to submit their comments and proposals with a view to developing a well-targeted and action-oriented plan for the Decade;

"4. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to develop an international plan of action for the Decade, taking into account the views expressed by Governments and the relevant international organizations, as requested in paragraph 3 of the present resolution, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

"5. *Appeals* to all Governments to reinforce political will and develop more inclusive policy-making environments in which active and wide-ranging participation in literacy promotion can take place, in particular to enhance partnerships, commit resources and devise innovative strategies for reaching the poorest and most marginalized groups, and for seeking alternative school and non-school approaches to learning with a view to achieving the goals of the United Nations Literacy Decade;

"6. *Also appeals* to all Governments to redouble their efforts to achieve their own goals of education for all by setting firm targets and timetables, where possible, including gender-specific education targets and programmes to combat the illiteracy of women and girls, and, by working in active partnership with communities, associations, the media and development agencies, to reach those targets;

"7. *Urges* all Governments to take the lead in the coordination of the Decade activities at the national level, bringing all relevant national actors together in sustained dialogue in policy formulation, implementation and evaluation of literacy efforts;

"8. *Reaffirms* that literacy for all is at the heart of basic education for all and that creating literate environments and societies is essential for achieving the goals of eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy;

"9. *Appeals* to all Governments and to economic and financial organizations and institutions, both national and international, to lend greater financial and material support to the efforts to increase literacy and achieve education for all goals, through, inter alia, the 20/20 initiative, as appropriate;

"10. *Invites* Member States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify further their efforts to implement effectively the World Declaration on Education for All, the Dakar Framework for Action and the relevant commitments and

recommendations to promote literacy made in recent major United Nations conferences and at their five-year reviews with a view to better coordinating their activities and increasing their contribution to development within the framework of the United Nations Literacy Decade;

"11. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to take the lead role in coordinating and implementing at the international level the activities envisaged within the framework of the United Nations Literacy Decade;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, establishing a voluntary fund for the Decade, with special provision for the support of literacy efforts of developing countries;

"13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States as well as the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

"14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the question entitled 'The United Nations Literacy Decade'."

18. At its 21st meeting, on 24 October, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all" (A/C.3/56/L.10/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.10 and Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Monaco, Myanmar, Namibia, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Portugal, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal and Sri Lanka. Subsequently, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Cambodia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Fiji, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Latvia, Malta, Mauritania, the Niger, Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

19. At the same meeting, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the text as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 4, the words "education for all" between the words "developing national" and the word "plans" were deleted;

(b) In operative paragraph 8, the words "and those of the United Nations Literacy Decade" were inserted after the words "and achieve the goals of education for all";

(c) In operative paragraph 9, the words "in a manner that is complementary to and coordinated with the ongoing education for all process" were added at the end of the paragraph.

20. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.10/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 24, draft resolution IV).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.12/Rev.1

21. At the 19th meeting, on 23 October, the representative of Portugal, on behalf of Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Policies and programmes involving youth" (A/C.3/56/L.12/Rev.1). Subsequently, Armenia, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Fiji, the Gambia, Georgia, Guinea, Haiti, Israel, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, the Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

22. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Portugal orally revised it, by which, in operative paragraph 10, the words "and debate strategies related to them" were revised to read "and debate strategies for youth empowerment", after which a footnote, reading "see A/C.3/56/2, concerning the fourth session of the World Youth Forum", was added.

23. At its 21st meeting, on 24 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.12/Rev.1, as orally corrected, without a vote (see para. 24, draft resolution V).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

24. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997 and 54/124 of 17 December 1999 concerning the proclamation, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family,

Recognizing that the preparation for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family provides a useful opportunity for drawing further attention to the objectives of the Year for increasing cooperation at all levels on family issues and for undertaking concerted actions to strengthen family-centred

policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Also recognizing that the follow-up to the International Year of the Family is an integral part of the agenda and of the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for Social Development until 2004,

Further recognizing that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the world conferences of the 1990s continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Noting with concern the devastating effects of difficult social and economic conditions, armed conflicts, natural disasters and infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria and of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on family life,

Emphasizing that equality between women and men and respect for the human rights of all family members is essential to family well-being and to society at large,

Noting the active role of the United Nations in enhancing international cooperation in family-related issues, particularly in the area of research and information,

Emphasizing that it is necessary to intensify and improve coordination of the activities of the United Nations system on family-related issues so as to contribute fully to the effective preparation for and celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the International Year of the Family and the preparations for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and the recommendations contained therein;[2]

2. *Urges* Governments to view 2004 as a target year by which concrete achievements should be made to identify and elaborate issues of direct concern to families and also to set up and strengthen, where appropriate, mechanisms to plan and coordinate activities of governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations;

3. *Encourages* the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and resources, to participate in the preparatory process of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and to play an active role in facilitating regional cooperation in this regard;

4. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to review annually the preparations for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family as part of its agenda and of its multi-year programme of work until 2004;

5. *Invites* Member States to consider organizing activities in preparation for the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family at the national level;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in order to facilitate contributions by Governments, to include the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities, on an

[2] E/CN.5/2001/4.

annual basis among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council on the implementation of the present resolution, including a description of the state of preparation for the observance of the International Year of the Family at all levels.

Draft resolution II
Cooperatives in social development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/90 of 16 December 1992, 49/155 of 23 December 1994, 51/58 of 12 December 1996 and 54/123 of 17 December 1999, in which it requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Governments on the draft guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives[3] and to provide, if necessary, a revised version for adoption,

Recognizing that cooperatives, in their various forms, promote the fullest possible participation in the economic and social development of all people, including women, youth, older persons and people with disabilities, and are becoming a major factor of economic and social development,

Recognizing also the important contribution and potential of all forms of cooperatives to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, and the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996, and their five-year reviews, as well as the World Food Summit, held in Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperatives in social development;[4]

2. *Draws* the attention of Member States to the draft guidelines[5] aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives, to be considered by them in developing or revising their national policies on cooperatives;

3. *Encourages* Governments to keep under review, as appropriate, the legal and administrative provisions governing the activities of cooperatives, with a view to ensuring a supportive environment for them and to protecting and advancing the potential of cooperatives to help them achieve their goals;

4. *Urges* Governments, relevant international organizations and specialized agencies, in collaboration with national and international cooperative organizations, to give due consideration to the role and contribution of cooperatives in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the second United

[3] A/54/57, annex.
[4] A/56/73 and Add.1-E/2001/68 and Add.1.
[5] A/56/73-E/2001/68, annex.

Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and their five-year reviews, as well as the World Food Summit, by, inter alia:

(a) Utilizing and developing fully the potential and contribution of cooperatives for the attainment of social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment and the enhancement of social integration;

(b) Encouraging and facilitating the establishment and development of cooperatives, including taking measures aimed at enabling people living in poverty or belonging to vulnerable groups to engage on a voluntary basis in the creation and development of cooperatives;

(c) Taking appropriate measures aimed at creating a supportive and enabling environment for the development of cooperatives by, inter alia, developing an effective partnership between Governments and the cooperative movement;

5. *Invites* Governments, in collaboration with the cooperative movement, to develop programmes to promote and strengthen the education of members, the elected leadership and professional cooperative management, where appropriate, and to create or improve statistical databases on the development of cooperatives and on their contribution to national economies;

6. *Also invites* Governments, relevant international organizations, specialized agencies and local, national and international cooperative organizations to continue to observe the International Day of Cooperatives annually, on the first Saturday of July, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/90;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations and other international organizations and national, regional and international cooperative organizations, to render support to Member States, as appropriate, in their efforts to create a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives and to promote an exchange of experience and best practices, through, inter alia, conferences, workshops and seminars at the national and regional levels;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

Draft resolution III
Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming the obligations contained in relevant human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination on all Forms of Discrimination against Women[6] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[7]

[6] Resolution 34/180, annex.
[7] Resolution 44/25, annex.

Recalling also its resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[8] 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, 49/153 of 23 December 1994, 50/144 of 21 December 1995, 52/82 of 12 December 1997 and 54/121 of 17 December 1999,

Recalling further all relevant resolutions on the equalization of opportunities and human rights of persons with disabilities of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[9] adopted on 8 September 2000 by the heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, and recognizing the need to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of people with disabilities,

Noting with appreciation the actions of Governments to implement relevant sections of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and of relevant resolutions that give special attention to accessible environments and information and communication technologies, health, education and social services, employment and sustainable livelihoods, including the relevant activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Reaffirming the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their respective follow-up reviews,

Noting with appreciation the assessment by the Secretary-General of the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities, ensuring their full participation and equality, as well as the measures undertaken by the United Nations system aimed at preventing disabling conditions,[10]

Noting the invitation made to the General Assembly by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held at Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 7 September 2001, to consider elaborating an integral and comprehensive international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of disabled people, including, in particular, provisions that address the discriminatory practices and treatment affecting them,

Acknowledging the important role of non-governmental organizations in the promotion and protection of the human rights of persons with disabilities, and noting in this regard their work in promoting the elaboration of an international convention on the rights of disabled persons,

Noting with appreciation the valuable work of United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability in supporting the building of national capacities to promote the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in order to create opportunities for sustainable livelihoods by, for and with persons with disabilities,

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[8] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV).

[9] See resolution 55/2.

[10] See A/56/169, paras. 25 and 26.

Also noting with appreciation the important contributions of subregional, regional and international seminars and conferences related to persons with disabilities,

Mindful of the need to adopt and implement effective policies and strategies to promote the rights and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in economic, social, cultural and political life, on the basis of equality, to achieve a society for all,

Welcoming initiatives to hold international conferences relating to persons with disabilities, including the Sixth World Assembly of Disabled Peoples' International, to be held in Japan in 2002,

Concerned that improvement of disability awareness and sensitivity to disability issues and respect for the human rights of disabled persons have not been significant enough to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities worldwide,

Expressing grave concern that situations of armed conflict continue to have especially devastating consequences for the human rights of persons with disabilities,

Recognizing the importance of timely and reliable data on disability sensitive topics, programme planning and evaluation and the need for further development of practical statistical methodology for the collection and compilation of data on populations with disabilities,

Reiterating that technology, in particular information and communication technology, provides new possibilities for improving accessibility and employment for persons with disabilities and for facilitating their full and effective participation and equality, and welcoming the initiatives of the United Nations in promoting information and communication technology as a means of achieving the universal goal of a society for all,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;[11]

2. *Welcomes* the many initiatives and actions of Governments and relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, including relevant Bretton Woods institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations to enhance the rights of persons with disabilities and the further equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities in all sectors of society;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the valuable work undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development in monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities under his third mandate for the period 2000-2002, and also notes with appreciation the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in supporting the work of the Special Rapporteur;

4. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to continue to take concrete measures to promote the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions and

[11] A/56/169 and Corr.1.

agreed international standards concerning persons with disabilities, in particular the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and for the further equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities by focusing on accessibility, health, education, social services, including training and rehabilitation, safety nets, employment and sustainable livelihood, in the design and implementation of strategies, policies and programmes to promote a more inclusive society;

5. *Calls upon* Governments to undertake all necessary measures to advance beyond the adoption of national plans for people with disabilities through, inter alia, the creation or reinforcement of arrangements for the promotion and awareness of disability issues and the allocation of sufficient resources for the full implementation of existing plans and initiatives, and emphasizes, in this regard, the importance of supporting national efforts through international cooperation;

6. *Encourages* Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to take practical actions, including public information campaigns, by, for and with persons with disabilities, with a view to increasing awareness of and sensitivity to disability issues, combating and overcoming discrimination against persons with disabilities and furthering their full and effective participation in society;

7. *Encourages* Governments to continue their support to non-governmental organizations contributing to the fulfilment of the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

8. *Also encourages* Governments to involve persons with disabilities in the formulation of strategies and plans aimed at eradicating poverty, promoting education and enhancing employment;

9. *Urges* relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, to continue to work closely with the programme on disability of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Secretariat in the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, including activities at the field level, by sharing experiences, findings and recommendations on persons with disabilities;

10. *Urges* Governments to cooperate with the Statistics Division of the Secretariat in the continued development of global statistics and indicators on disability, and encourages them to avail themselves of the technical assistance of the Division to build national capacities for national data collection systems, including the compilation and dissemination of data on disabled persons, as well as the development of methods for data collection and disability statistics, as appropriate;

11. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide special protection to girls and women with disabilities, elderly people with disabilities and persons with developmental and psychiatric disabilities, with special emphasis on integrating them into society and protecting and promoting their human rights;

12. *Also urges* Governments, in collaboration with the United Nations system, to give special attention to the rights, needs and well-being of children with disabilities and their families in the development of policies and programmes,

including the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;

13. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, concerned non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to support the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability with a view to strengthening its capacity to support catalytic and innovative activities to implement fully the World Programme of Action and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, including the work of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission for Social Development, and to support activities to build national capacities, with emphasis on priorities for action identified in the current resolution;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to support initiatives of relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as those of regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, for the promotion of all humans rights of, and non-discrimination against, persons with disabilities and the further implementation of the World Programme of Action as well as their efforts to integrate persons with disabilities in technical cooperation activities, both as beneficiaries and as decision makers;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts in improving the accessibility of the United Nations for persons with disabilities, and urges him to continue to implement plans to provide a barrier-free environment;

16. *Welcomes* the preparations proposed by the Secretary-General in his current report for the fourth quinquennial review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action in 2002,[11] including the proposed framework for that review, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its fifty-eighth session, through the Commission on Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, a report on the findings and recommendations based on the review and appraisal, including a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution IV
United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[12] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[13] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child[14] the right of every individual to education is recognized as inalienable,

Recalling also its resolutions 42/104 of 7 December 1987, by which it proclaimed 1990 as International Literacy Year, and 54/122 of 17 December 1999, in which it requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and Member States and with other relevant organizations and bodies, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a proposal for a United Nations

[12] Resolution 217 A (III).
[13] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[14] Resolution 44/25, annex.

literacy decade, with a draft plan of action and possible time frame for such a decade, on the basis of the outcome of the World Education Forum and the special session of the General Assembly for the five-year review of the World Summit for Social Development,

Reaffirming its resolution 49/184 of 23 December 1994, by which it proclaimed the ten-year period beginning on 1 January 1995 the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and appealed to all Governments to intensify their efforts to eradicate illiteracy and to direct education towards the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/29 on the right to education,[15]

Also recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000[16] in which Member States resolved to ensure that, by the year 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, would be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys would have equal access to all levels of education, which requires a renewed commitment to promote literacy for all,

Further recalling the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[17] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[18] and the outcome document of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world",[19]

Convinced that literacy is crucial to the acquisition, by every child, youth and adult, of essential life skills that enable them to address the challenges they can face in life, and represents an essential step in basic education, which is an indispensable means for effective participation in the societies and economies of the twenty-first century,

Affirming that the realization of the right to education, especially for girls, contributes to the eradication of poverty,

Acknowledging the activities undertaken at the national and regional levels for the Education for All 2000 assessment of progress towards achieving the goals of education for all, and stressing further the need to redouble efforts in order to meet the basic needs of people of all age groups, particularly girls and women,

Recognizing that, despite the significant progress in basic education, especially the increase in primary school enrolment coupled with a growing emphasis on the quality of education, major problems, both emerging and continuing, still persist, which require even more forceful and concerted action at the national and international levels so as to achieve the goal of education for all,

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[15] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 3* (E/2001/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[16] Resolution 55/2.

[17] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[18] Ibid., annex II.

[19] See resolution S-24/2, annex.

Deeply concerned about the persistence of the gender gap in education, which is reflected by the fact that nearly two thirds of the world's adult illiterates are women,

Urging Member States, in close partnership with international organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to promote the right to education for all and to create conditions for all for learning throughout life,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, entitled "Draft proposal and plan for a United Nations literacy decade";[20]

2. *Proclaims* the ten-year period beginning on 1 January 2003 the United Nations Literacy Decade;

3. *Reaffirms* the Dakar Framework for Action, Education for All, adopted at the World Education Forum, held at Dakar from 26 to 28 April 2000,[21] in which commitments were made to achieve a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, and to improve the quality of education;

4. *Appeals* to all Governments to redouble their efforts to achieve their own goals of education for all by developing national plans in accordance with the Dakar Framework, setting firm targets and timetables, including gender-specific education targets and programmes, to eliminate gender disparities at all levels of education, to combat the illiteracy of women and girls and to ensure that girls and women have full and equal access to education, and by working in active partnership with communities, associations, the media and development agencies to reach those targets;

5. *Also appeals* to all Governments to reinforce political will and develop more inclusive policy-making environments and devise innovative strategies for reaching the poorest and most marginalized groups, and for seeking alternative formal and non-formal approaches to learning with a view to achieving the goals of the United Nations Literacy Decade;

6. *Urges* all Governments to take the lead in the coordination of the Decade activities at the national level, bringing all relevant national actors together in sustained dialogue in policy formulation, implementation and evaluation of literacy efforts;

7. *Reaffirms* that literacy for all is at the heart of basic education for all and that creating literate environments and societies is essential for achieving the goals of eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy;

8. *Appeals* to all Governments and to economic and financial organizations and institutions, both national and international, to lend greater financial and material support to the efforts to increase literacy and achieve the goals of education for all and those of the United Nations Literacy Decade through, inter alia, the 20/20 initiative, as appropriate;

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[20] A/56/114 and Add.1-E/2001/93 and Add.1.

[21] See *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, 26-28 April 2000*, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Paris, 2000.

9. *Invites* Member States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify further their efforts to implement effectively the World Declaration on Education for All,[22] the Dakar Framework for Action and the relevant commitments and recommendations to promote literacy made at recent major United Nations conferences and at their five-year reviews with a view to better coordinating their activities and increasing their contribution to development within the framework of the United Nations Literacy Decade in a manner that is complementary to and coordinated with the ongoing education for all process;

10. *Decides* that United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization should take a coordinating role in stimulating and catalysing the activities at the international level within the framework of the United Nations Literacy Decade;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to seek and take into account comments and proposals from Governments and the relevant international organizations on the draft plan for the United Nations Literacy Decade in order to develop and finalize a well targeted and action-oriented plan of action to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the question entitled "United Nations Literacy Decade".

Draft resolution V
Policies and programmes involving youth

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, annexed thereto, as an integral part of that resolution,

Recalling also its resolutions 32/135 of 16 December 1977 and 36/17 of 9 November 1981, by which it adopted guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations, and 40/14 of 18 November 1985, entitled "International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace", by which it endorsed the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth as contained in the report of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year on its fourth session, held at Vienna from 25 March to 3 April 1985,[23]

Recalling its resolution 54/120 of 17 December 1999, in which it took note with appreciation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998,[24]

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[22] *Final Report of the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs, Jomtien, Thailand, 5-9 March 1990*, Inter-Agency Commission (UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank) for the World Conference on Education for All, New York, 1990, appendix I.

[23] A/40/256, annex.

[24] See WCMRY/1998/28, chap. I, resolution 1.

Welcoming the adoption of the Dakar Framework for Action, Education for All at the World Education Forum, held at Dakar from 26 to 28 April 2000,[25]

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by the heads of State and Government,[26] and recognizing that the Declaration includes important goals and targets pertaining to youth,

Also recalling and reaffirming the commitments made at the major United Nations conferences and summits since 1990 and their follow-up processes,

Noting in particular that, in the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, regional and interregional conferences of ministers responsible for youth affairs in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Asia were invited to intensify their cooperation and to consider meeting regularly at the international level under the aegis of the United Nations to provide an effective forum for a focused global dialogue on youth-related issues,

Recalling that, in the World Programme of Action, the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System was invited to contribute to the implementation of the Programme through the identification and promotion of joint initiatives to further its objectives so that they could better reflect the interests of youth,

Welcoming the support of the Government of Senegal for the holding of the fourth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System at Dakar from 6 to 10 August 2001,

Acknowledging that poverty, among other factors, represents a serious challenge to the full and effective participation and contribution of young people to society,

Recognizing that global cross-sectoral youth policies should take into consideration the empowerment and full and effective participation of young people, their role as a resource and as independent decision-makers in all sectors of society,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond;[27]

2. *Calls upon* all States, all United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in particular youth organizations, to make every possible effort towards the implementation of the World Programme of Action, aiming at cross-sectoral youth policies by integrating a youth perspective into all planning and decision-making processes relevant to youth;

3. *Also calls upon* all parties concerned, as mentioned in paragraph 2 above, within the framework of the Word Programme of Action, to consider the appropriate ways and means to provide follow-up to the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth;[24]

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[25] See *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, 26-28 April 2000*, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Paris, 2000.

[26] Resolution 55/2.

[27] A/56/180.

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work by the regional commissions to implement the World Programme of Action and to follow up the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in their respective regions, in coordination with regional meetings of ministers responsible for youth and regional non-governmental youth organizations, and to provide advisory services to support national youth policies and programmes in each region, and encourages them to continue to do so;

5. *Invites* all relevant programmes and funds, the specialized agencies and other bodies within the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and regional financial institutions to give greater support to national youth policies and programmes within their country programmes as a way to follow up the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth;

6. *Calls upon* all States, all United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular youth organizations, to exchange knowledge and expertise on youth-related issues, upon setting up the ways and means to do so;

7. *Welcomes* the public information activities organized by the Secretariat for International Youth Day, 12 August, as a way to promote better awareness, especially among youth, of the World Programme of Action;

8. *Recognizes* that information and communication technology plays a crucial role as a potential means of promoting participation, access to information and education and networking possibilities for young people;

9. *Welcomes* the fact that the special session of the General Assembly on children will also discuss issues relevant to youth;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Senegal for its support to the fourth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, held at Dakar from 6 to 10 August 2001, where, once again, youth delegates had the opportunity to meet and debate strategies for youth empowerment;[28]

11. *Affirms* that future sessions of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System should integrate an active and representative involvement of youth organizations and young people into all planning, reviewing and decision-making processes, and invites the Secretary-General to conduct a thorough review of and provide recommendations on the Forum's structure, organization, participation, including to ensure that it is fully representative of all geographical regions and of a diversity of views, and processes, taking into account the views of Member States and youth organizations, and, in this context, to include this matter in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-first session;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of the full and effective participation of youth and youth organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels in promoting and implementing the World Programme of Action and in evaluating the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered in its implementation and of the need to support the activities of youth mechanisms that have been set up by youth and youth organizations, bearing in mind that young people are active agents for positive change and development in society;

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[28] See A/C.3/56/2, concerning the fourth session of the World Youth Forum.

13. *Also recognizes* the great importance of the empowerment of youth through building the capacity of young people to achieve greater independence, overcoming constraints to their participation and providing them with opportunities to make decisions that affect their life and well-being;

14. *Reaffirms* the decision of the heads of State and Government, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work, welcomes, in this context, the Secretary-General's initiative to create a Youth Employment Network, and invites the Secretary-General to continue with these initiatives;

15. *Expresses deep concern* over the fact that currently approximately half of new HIV infections are in youth aged 15 to 24 and that no fewer than 6,500 young people are infected by the virus each day, and reiterates the need to achieve the goals and commitments contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session, held at Headquarters from 25 to 27 June 2001;[29]

16. *Reaffirms* the importance of schooling and education, in particular for girls and young women, and recognizes the value of all forms of life-long learning, including formal education and training and non-formal education;

17. *Calls upon* Member States, all United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations to continue to implement fully the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/14, and the guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations, which the Assembly adopted by its resolutions 32/135 and 36/17, and in particular to facilitate, in accordance with these resolutions, the activities of youth mechanisms that have been set up by youth and youth organizations;

18. *Takes note with appreciation* of the important role of the United Nations Youth Fund in the implementation of agreed programmes and mandates on youth, including the provision of support for youth activities promoting South-South cooperation, and support for the participation of young delegates from the least-developed countries at the fourth session of the World Youth Forum;

19. *Invites* all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the Fund, and requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate actions to encourage contributions;

20. *Reiterates* the call made in the World Programme of Action to Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations to the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations meetings, thus broadening the channels of communication and enhancing the discussion of youth-related issues, and requests the Secretary-General to convey this invitation again to Member States;

21. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/7 of 24 July 2001, in which the Council decided that the Commission for Social Development would review the relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups and the global situation of youth in 2003, and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to present a comprehensive report on this issue, with concrete and action oriented recommendations, to the

[29] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

Commission at its forty-first session, bearing in mind the need for Member States to develop more holistic and cross-sectoral youth policies and the need to enhance, inter alia, the channels of communication between the United Nations system and youth and youth organizations;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on progress made in the implementation of the World Programme of Action.